

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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ROME FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, HU, VT
SUBJECT: KADAR'S CALL ON POPE PAUL

1. MEETING BETWEEN JANOS KADAR AND POPE PAUL VI, ACCORDING
TO JUNE 11 NEPSZABADSAG, ORGAN OF HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS'
PARTY, "TOOK PLACE AT A TIME WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATE
AND THE CHURCH IN OUR COUNTRY HAVE LONG BEEN SETTLED." SPEAKING
ABOUT THE POPE'S ADDRESS TO HIS HUNGARIAN GUESTS NEPSZABADSAG
SAYS THE SPEECH "EXPRESSES THE RATIONAL APPROACH WHICH HOLDS
EXISTING SOCIALISM AS AN UNCHANGEABLE REALITY IN THE WORLD.
BESIDES, IT IS AN INDICATION OF THE VATICAN'S INTENTION TO HELP
THE GREAT CAUSE OF ENSURING PEACE AND, AS SUCH, THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS. THE STATEMENT
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OF THE POPE WHICH SPEAKS APPRECIATIVELY ABOUT THE EFFORTS
OF THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IN THIS DIRECTION AS
WELL AS ABOUT ITS ACTIVITIES AIMED AT DEVELOPING UNITY
BETWEEN BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS, HAS EVOKED CONSIDER-
ABLE FAVORABLE REACTION IN OUR COUNTRY AND, WE THINK,
BEYOND ITS BOUNDARIES."

2. ON JUNE 12 THE WIDELY-READ MAGYAR NEMZET IN A LEAD EDITORIAL LAUDED THE MEETING BETWEEN KADAR AND THE POPE AND THE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS HOLINESS ON THAT OCCASION. THE PAPER, IN REFERRING TO THE VISIT AND THE POPE'S ADDRESS SAID THAT "INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION CONSIDER THESE AS HISTORICAL MILESTONES." THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POPE'S SPEECH GOES BEYOND THE TIES BETWEEN SOCIALIST HUNGARY AND THE HOLY SEE, THE PAPER DECLARES, ADDING THAT "IT HAS GENERAL IMPLICATIONS BECAUSE THE WORDS OF THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH THAT ENJOYS THE WIDEST MASS INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD ARE EQUALLY VALUED BY BELIEVERS ON THE FIVE CONTINENTS AND THE POLITICAL LEADERS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES." PAPER GOES ON TO SAY THAT EACH LINE OF THE ADDRESS REVEALS THE UTMOST RESPONSIBILITY WITH WHICH THE POPE SELECTED HIS WORDS. "HE WARNED THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE JUDGED INITIATIVES AIMED AT IMPROVING AND NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH A CRITICAL EYE AND SUSPICION. BUT THE FIRM CONVICTION WAS APPARENT IN HIS WORDS THAT HISTORY WILL VINDICATE THOSE WHO ARE TRAVELING THE PATH OF COOPERATION." THE POPE, SAID MAGYAR NEMZET, DESCRIBED THE VISIT OF KADAR AS "UNDOUBTEDLY UNIQUE AND PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT." PUBLIC OPINION IN OUR COUNTRY SHARES THIS EVALUATION WITH FULL JOY AND SATISFACTION, CONCLUDES THE PAPER.

3. AT DINNER EVENING JUNE 9 AT CHARGE'S HOME, PETER RENYI, EDITOR OF PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG, WAXED ECSTATIC OVER STATEMENT MADE TO KADAR BY POPE PAUL DURING CALL OF HUNGARIAN PARTY LEADER AT VATICAN. RENYI SAID POPE'S STATEMENT WAS "SENSATIONAL" AND "UNPRECEDENTED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TWENTIETH CENTURY." OTHERS COMMENTED THAT "VATICAN STILL KNOWS MORE ABOUT DIPLOMACY THAN ANYONE ELSE AROUND." MUDD

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